

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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1. (Currently Amended) A multi-functional device comprising:
an outer casing having a front side, a rear side opposing the front side, and a lower side;
a shaft supported on said outer casing;
a recording section that records images on a recording medium; and
a reading section that reads images from a document, said reading section having a front edge substantially in coincidence with the front side of said outer casing, a back edge opposing the front edge, left and right walls, and a lower surface, said reading section being disposed above said shaft and pivotable about said shaft, wherein when said reading section pivots away from said recording section such that said front edge moves forward and downward, a space is provided above said recording section, and said recording section is exposed outside through said space, and

a control panel having a front end substantially in coincidence with the front side of said outer casing, a rear end opposing the front end, and a lower surface, wherein said reading section is disposed on the lower surface of said control panel and pivotable together with said control panel, wherein

the control panel faces frontward when the space is defined above the recording section.

2. (Previously Presented) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reading section is disposed closer to the front side of said outer casing than said recording section and is pivotable toward the front side of said outer casing.

3. (Original) The multi-functional device as claims in claim 1, wherein said shaft is disposed adjacent to said recording section and disposed nearer the front side of said outer casing than said recording section.

4. (Previously Presented) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a control panel having a front end substantially in coincidence with the front side of said outer casing, a rear end opposing the front end, and a lower surface, wherein said reading section is disposed on the lower surface of said control panel and pivotable together with said control panel, such that the front end of said control panel moves downward.

5. (Previously Presented) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a document holding section that extends from the rear end of said control panel for supporting documents to be conveyed to said reading section, wherein said document holding section moves together with said reading section, and serves as a cover for covering said recording section when not moved open.

6. (Previously Presented) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said recording section comprises an ink-jet-printer provided with an ink cartridge that can be upwardly removed from said ink-jet printer after pivoting said reading section away from said recording section.

7. (Original) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reading section is disposed adjacent to said recording section and covers at least a portion of said recording section.

8. (Previously Presented) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a document discharge tray pivotally and detachably mounted near the front edge of said reading section for receiving documents discharged from said reading section, wherein said document discharge tray is maintained at a predetermined angle with respect to a

direction in which the documents are discharged when in use and is pivotable in a direction opposite the pivoting direction of said reading section.

9. (Original) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a document discharge tray mounting portion on which said document discharge tray is mounted, wherein said document discharge tray is mounted on said document discharge tray mounting portion from upward.

10. (Previously Presented) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a recording paper discharge tray having an underside, right side and a left side, said recording paper discharge tray being provided on the front end of said outer casing for receiving recording paper discharged from said recording section, said recording paper discharge tray normally slanting upward and being displaced downward due to contact from said reading section when said reading section pivots away from said recording section.

11. (Previously Presented) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 10, further comprising an urging member, wherein said recording paper discharge tray is pivotally supported on said outer casing and is supported by said urging member to slant upward.

12. (Original) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 11, wherein said urging member comprises a leaf spring that supports said recording paper discharge tray by contacting the underside of said recording paper discharge tray at a center between the leftside and the rightside.

13. (Previously Presented) The multi-functional device as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said leaf spring is provided beneath said recording paper discharge tray and also beneath an opening formed on the lower side of said outer casing; said recording paper discharge tray comprises a downward protruding portion that contacts said leaf spring via the opening.

14. (Previously Presented) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said document discharge tray contacts said recording paper discharge tray when said reading section pivots and rotates in a direction opposite the rotational direction of said reading section into a receded position.

15. (Previously Presented) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said outer casing comprises left and right side covers, between which said reading section is pivotally supported on said shaft; said reading section has left and right walls on which ribs are formed, the ribs being in sliding contact with said left and right side covers at all times, even when said reading section is rotated.

16. (Previously Presented) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the back edge of said reading section protrudes above said left and right side covers when said reading section pivots; the ribs comprises linear protrusions extending in a direction nearly parallel to said control panel, such that one portion of the ribs protrudes above said left and right side covers when said reading section pivots.

17. (Original) the multi-functional device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said outer casing comprises side frame plates formed with holes; said shaft having two ends and comprises a hollow cylindrical member integrally provide on the lower surface of said reading section and supported via penetration of the two ends through the holes in the side frame plates; and a harness connected to said reading section passes through said hollow shaft and extends externally.

18. (Original) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said shaft has end openings and a circumferential surface formed with an opening in fluid communication with the end openings, and the harness passing through said hollow shaft extends externally via the opening; and surfaces around the end openings are capable of contacting ribs provided on inner walls of said side frame plates.

19. (Previously Presented) The multi-functional device as claimed in Claim 17, wherein stopper members are provided on the left and right walls of said reading section for contacting said side frame plates of said outer casing to position said reading section relative to said outer casing.

20. (Original) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 19, wherein said shaft has a circumferential surface on which protruding portions are provided for interposing said side frame plates of said outer casing between the protruding portions and said stopper members in order to position said reading section relative to said outer casing

21. (Currently Amended) A multi-functional device comprising:

an outer casing having a front side, a rear side opposing the front side, and a lower side;

a shaft supported on said outer casing;

a recording section that records images on a recording medium; and

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a reading section that reads images from a document, said reading section having a front edge substantially in coincidence with the front side of said outer casing, a back edge opposing the front edge, left and right walls, and a lower surface, said reading section being disposed above said shaft and pivotable about said shaft in a manner that said front edge moves forward and downward so as to separate from said recording section, whereby a space is provided above said recording section; and

a control panel having a front end substantially in coincidence with the front side of said outer casing, a rear end opposing the front end, and a lower surface, wherein said reading section is disposed on the lower surface of said control panel and pivotable together with said control panel, wherein

the control panel faces frontward when the space is defined above the recording section.

22. (Currently Amended) A multi-functional device comprising:
an outer casing having a front side, a rear side opposing the front side, and a lower side;
a shaft supported on said outer casing;
a recording section that records images on a recording medium; and
a reading section that reads images from a document, said reading section having a front edge substantially in coincidence with the front side of said outer casing, a back edge opposing the front edge, left and right walls, and a lower surface, said reading section being disposed above said shaft and pivotable about said shaft, wherein when said reading section pivots away from said recording section, a space is provided above said recording section, and said recording section is exposed outside through said space, wherein

 said shaft is located approximately halfway between the front edge and the back edge, and when said reading section pivots away from said recording section, the front edge moves to a position below said shaft; and

a control panel having a front end substantially in coincidence with the front side of said outer casing, a rear end opposing the front end, and a lower surface, wherein said reading section is disposed on the lower surface of said control panel and pivotable together with said control panel;

wherein, the control panel faces frontward when the space is defined above the recording section.

23. (Currently Amended) A multi-functional device comprising:
an outer casing having a front side, a rear side opposing the front side, and a lower side;
a shaft supported on said outer casing;
a recording section that records images on a recording medium;

a reading section that reads images from a document, said reading section having a front edge substantially in coincidence with the front side of said outer casing, a back edge opposing the front edge, left and right walls, and a lower surface, said reading section being disposed above said shaft and pivotable about said shaft, wherein when said reading section pivots away from said recording section, a space is provided above said recording section, and said recording section is exposed outside through said space; and

a document discharge tray pivotally and detachably mounted on said reading section near the front edge of said reading section for receiving documents discharged from said reading section, wherein said document discharge tray is maintained at a predetermined angle with respect to a direction in which the documents are discharged when in use and is pivotable in a direction opposite the pivoting direction of said reading section, wherein

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said document discharge tray initially moves integrally with the pivoting movement of said reading section, and after said document discharge tray has moved integrally with the pivoting movement of said reading section for a predetermined angle, said document discharge tray pivots in a direction opposite the pivoting direction of said reading section as said reading section pivots further.

24. (New) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 23, wherein said reading section is disposed closer to the front side of said outer casing than said recording section and is pivotable toward the front side of said outer casing.

25. (New) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 23, wherein said shaft is disposed adjacent to said recording section and disposed nearer the front side of said outer casing than said recording section.

26. (New) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 23, further comprising a control panel having a front end substantially in coincidence with the front side of said outer casing, a rear end opposing the front end, and a lower surface, wherein said reading section is

disposed on the lower surface of said control panel and pivotable together with said control panel, such that the front end of said control panel moves downward.

27. (New) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 23, wherein said recording section comprises an ink-jet printer provided with an ink cartridge that can be upwardly removed from said ink-jet printer after pivoting said reading section away from said recording section.

28. (New) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 23, wherein said reading section is disposed adjacent to said recording section and covers at least a portion of said recording section.

29. (New) The multi-functional device as claimed in claim 23, wherein said outer casing comprises side frame plates formed with holes; said shaft having two ends and comprises a hollow cylindrical member integrally provided on the lower surface of said reading section and supported via penetration of the two ends through the holes in the side frame plates and a harness connected to said reading section passes through said hollow shaft and extends externally.